GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3687
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2002
INAUGURATION OF SEMINAR ON POWER
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minister has inaugurated a seminar on power dated July 8, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main object of the seminar; and

(d) the details of the efforts being made to make available power at reasonable rate?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (d) : A National Conference on Capacity Addition for the Tenth and Eleventh Plans was held on the 8th and 9th of July, 2002 at New Delhi. The Conference was inaugurated by the Hon`ble Minister of Power and was attended by the State Power Secretaries and Chairmen of the SEBs. During the Conference, the Capacity addition target of 41,000 MW was reviewed and each identified project for the Tenth Plan was closely scrutinized.

In order to make power available at reasonable rates, it is necessary to moderate the increase in cost of power generating equipment and fuel costs for thermal generation. In addition, it is imperative to reduce transmission and distribution losses and identify and control theft through effective energy audit. The Government lays stress on benchmarking and standardization of equipment. An interactive website is also in operation where there is a separate icon on bidding and tendering. This has led to transparency which helps in reduction in project costs.

In addition to the above, the Government has launched the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for which there is a budget of Rs.3500 crore for this year. The States are provided assistance under this scheme to improve their sub-transmission and distribution system which would lower transmission losses and consequently, help in arresting the rate of growth of tariffs. Besides, the power sector reforms programme has gathered momentum all over the country and apart from the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, with 12 State Electricity Regulatory Commissions now having issued tariff orders. One of the primary tasks of these Commissions is to rationalize tariffs which would lower commercial losses in the long run. Some States like West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have introduced anti-theft legislation which again would help in lowering commercial losses.